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DAMASCUS 1165

14/1727Z JUN 74

VV ESA126BRA768  
 OO RUESRA  
 DE RUEHDM #1165 1651355  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 P O 141319Z JUN 74  
 FM USINT DAMASCUS  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 834  
 RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 015  
 INFO RUESBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 044  
 RUFHRS/USINT ALGIERS 051  
 RUESKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 122  
 RUESOR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 169  
 RUESBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 331  
 RUESJR/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 265  
 RUESRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 094  
 RUESKM/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 035  
 RUESKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 055  
 RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 069  
 RUESDI/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 036  
 RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 081  
 RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 066  
 RUESNS/AMEMBASSY SANAA 045  
 RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 064  
 RUESAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 261  
 RUESKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 041  
 RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 083  
 RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 052  
 BT  
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S/S-10

AMB  
 A/DCM  
 POL/E  
 USIS  
 SA  
 CHRON

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD  
 KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT  
 GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: N/A  
 TAGS: PFOR, SY  
 SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION, 6/14/74

1. SUMMARY: BOTH MAJOR NEWSPAPERS TODAY CONTINUE THEIR REPORTING OF NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT. THERE NUMEROUS OTHER STORIES IN BOTH PAPERS ABOUT ISREAL, I.E., FEDAYEEN RAID, THE ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL. THERE ALSO LARGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURES ABOUT INHUMAN TREATMENT OF SYRIAN POWS IN ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP: BOTH AL-THAWRA AND AL-BAATH CONTINUE THEIR COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT WITH FRONTPAGE (BELOW FOLD) ARTICLE WITH COMPLETIONS ON INSIDE. MOST EXTENSIVE STORY APPEARS IN AL-THAWRA WHICH REPORTS CINTINUATION OF TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS NIXON AND SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA. ARTICLE CITING MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY QUOTES PRESIDENT NIXON AS SAYING HE UNDERSTANDS ATTITUDE OF EGYPTIANS.

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IN THE COMING PERIOD ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS NIXON INVITATION TO SADAT TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UNITED STATES IN AUTUMN. ARTICLE'S DESCRIPTION OF TRAIN TRIP FROM CAIRO TO ALEXANDRIA SAYS THERE WERE HUGE CROWDS ALONG THE ROUTE AND AT THE MAJOR STATIONS. IN DESCRIBING TALKS WITH SADAT THE ARTICLE QUOTES ZIEGLER AS SAYING THEY WERE EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE AND EXTREMELY USEFUL. SUBJECTS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND UNITED STATES WHICH HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA AND THE DETAILS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

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3. ISRAEL: IN PAGE TWO STORY AL-BAATH HAS HEADLINE \$1,500 MILLION OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL. ARTICLE CITING RADIO ISRAEL SAYS THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FOR THE COMING FIVE YEAR PERIOD. THIS PACKAGE WILL REPORTEDLY INCLUDE \$1,500 MILLION PER YEAR IN MILITARY AID. THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHEN UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL VISIT ISRAEL FOR DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS. ARTICLE CLOSING WITH QUOTE FROM ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON THAT NIXON VISIT TO ISRAEL WILL BE THE BASIS TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER STORIES TODAY ON ISRAEL INCLUDING EXTENSIVE STORY ON FEDAYEEN RAID AGAINST SHAMIR AND RENEWED ISRAELI SHELLING OF SOUTH LEBANON. IN ADDITION THERE IS A STORY THAT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TEXTILE WORKERS HAS CONDEMNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION. AL-THANRA, TOO, HAS A ONE-THIRD PAGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURES ON POWS ALLEGATIONS THAT ISRAEL PERPETRATED ASSORTMENT OF ATROCITIES AGAINST SYRIAN POWS INCLUDING SEVERAL KILLED, CUTTING AND DISFIGURING, TORTURE, PROHIBITION OF SLEEP, AND NEGLIGENCE OF SICK AND WOUNDED. ARTICLE SAYS SYRIA WILL PUT THESE FACTS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.

4. DISENGAGEMENT: BOTH NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT ON THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND THE SUPPORT SYRIA IS RECEIVING BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. TODAY'S PRESS ALSO REPORTS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH RESULTED FROM THE VISIT BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS A STEP TOWARD COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND THE RECUPERATION OF RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THERE ADDITIONAL ARTICLE DATED LINED MOGADISCIO THAT AFRICAN STATES HAVE ALSO BACKED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS STEP TOWARD GENERAL SETTLEMENT. FINALLY, NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE REGIONAL BAATH PARTY CONFERENCE WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING DURING PAST WEEK AND WHICH HAS DISCUSSED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WILL ISSUE IMPORTANT COMMUNIQUE LATER TODAY.

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5. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO PRESS COVERAGE REPORTED ABOVE SYRIANS HAVE HAD ACCESS BOTH TO LIVE AND FILMED COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN EGYPT FROM AMMAN TV AND BEIRUT TV. DAMASCUS ITSELF HAS BEGUN TO SHOW REAL EVIDENCE OF VISIT AS STREETS AND TRAFFIC CIRCLES ARE BEING DRAPED IN AMERICAN AND SYRIAN FLAGS, THE FIRST TIME THE AMERICAN FLAG HAS BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE IN DAMASCUS SINCE 1967. THE MUNICIPALITY HAS NUMEROUS GROUPS OF WORKERS PACING STREETS AND ERECTING AND PAINTING WALLS BEFORE UNSIGHTLY AREAS. THE MUNICIPALITY HAS ALSO ERECTED AND IN SOME CASES HASTENED TO COMPLETE NUMEROUS FOUNTAINS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND IN SHORT A FESTIVE AIR IS BEGINNING TO TAKE HOLD. WE HAVE NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT NOT ONLY ARE MANY SYRIANS COMING INTO DAMASCUS FROM OUTLYING AREAS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT BUT LARGE NUMBER OF LEBANESE ARE ALSO COMING WHO HOPE TO CATCH SIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT AT ONE OR MORE OF THE PLANNED CEREMONIES.

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